

# Plug-in Electric Vehicle Technology Overview

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*Executive Workshops on Strategies and Best Practices for State  
Departments of Transportation to Support Commercialization of  
Electric Vehicles and Infrastructure*



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- **Understanding PEV technology is the key to making smart regulatory and investment decisions**
- **Vehicle Technology**
  - All kinds of PEVs: BEVs, PHEVs, and EREVs
  - Drivetrains, system efficiency, and batteries
- **Charging Technology**
  - Charging levels – charging needs and standards definition
  - Advanced technology – wireless, battery swapping

# Vehicle Technology

PEVs are a transformative opportunity that presents a true alternative to the internal combustion engine

## Plug-in Electric Vehicle (PEV)

A vehicle that can be powered by a rechargeable battery pack and connects to the electrical grid

### Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV)

- Electric drive vehicle that can only be powered by a battery pack

### Extended Range Electric Vehicle (EREV)

- BEV with a backup internal combustion engine powered by gasoline, biofuel, etc. (a.k.a. range extender)

### Plug-in Hybrid Vehicle (PHEV)

- Electric and conventional drivetrain in one
- Similar to a Prius with a larger battery pack that can be recharged

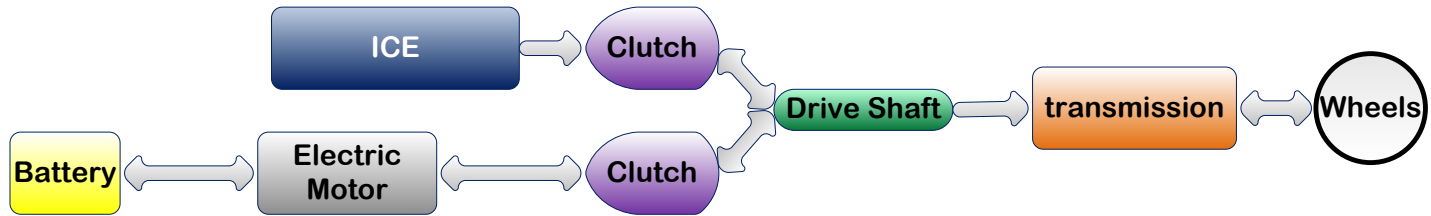
# Vehicle Powerflows



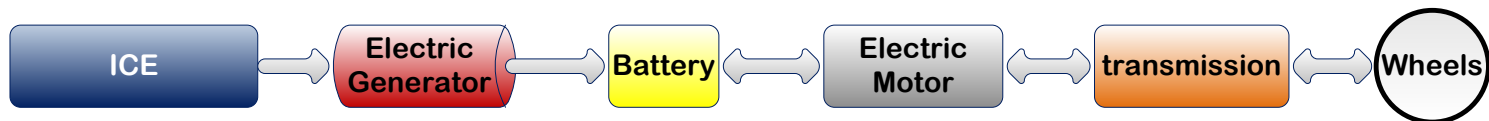
Conventional ICE Powerflow



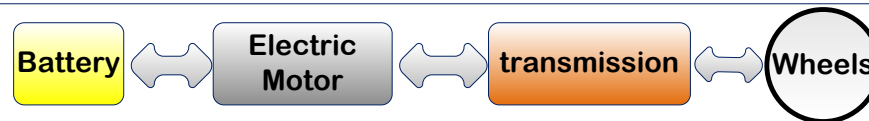
(Plug-in) Hybrid Electric Parallel Powerflow (e.g., Toyota Prius)



(Plug-in) Hybrid Electric Series Powerflow (e.g., Chevy Volt)



Battery Electric Vehicle



Source: C2ES PEV Literature Review

# Vehicle System Efficiency



VEHICLE TYPE		ENERGY DENSITY (WH/KG)	SYSTEM EFFICIENCY	SYSTEM LEVEL ENERGY DENSITY (WH/KG)
TODAY	Conventional Vehicle * (Gasoline)	13,000	21%	2,730
	PEV** (Lithium Ion Battery)	100-250	81%	81-203
FUTURE	Conventional Vehicle*** (Gasoline hybrid)	13,000	42%	5,460

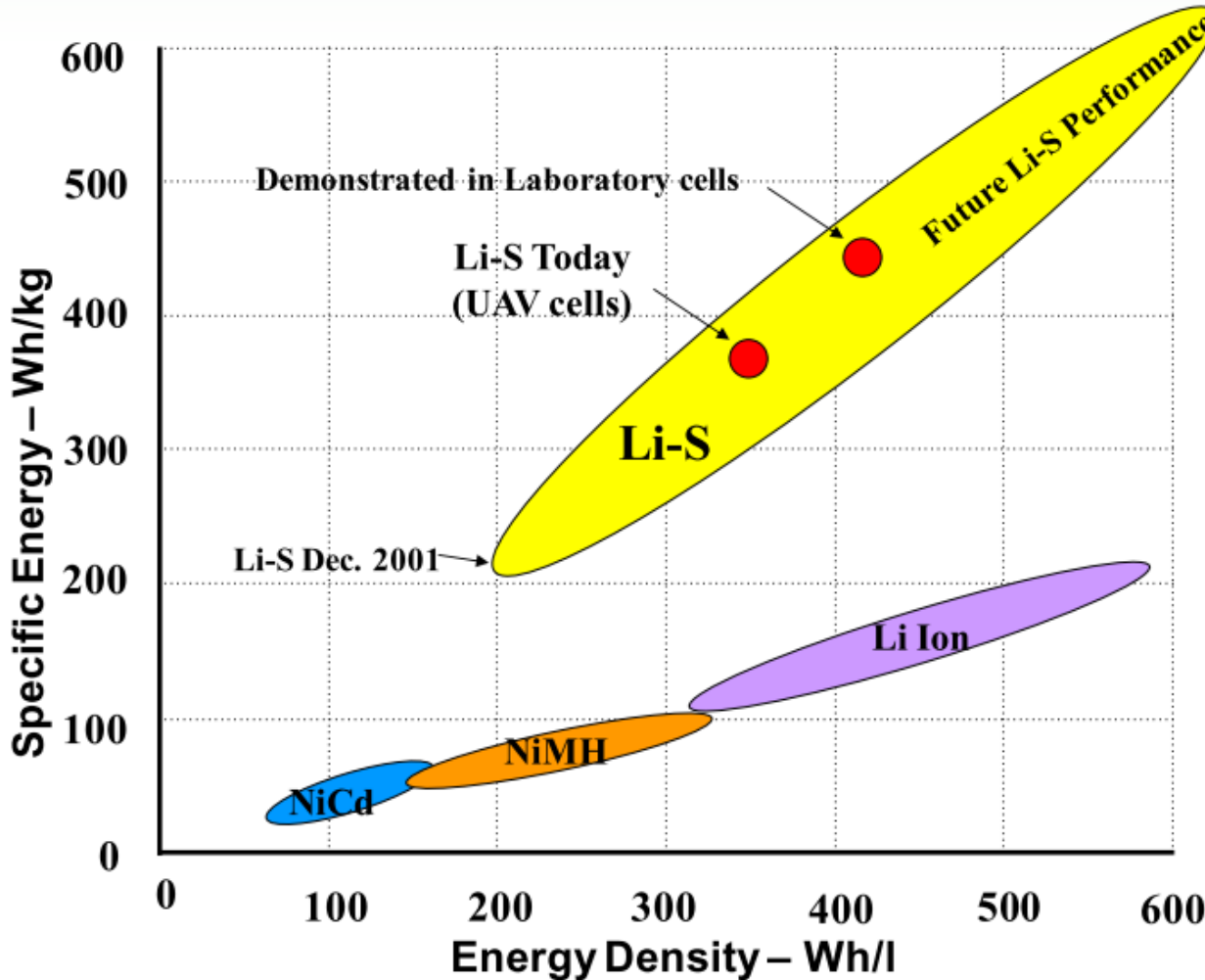
\* Includes energy loss from internal combustion engine, standby/idle, driveline, and accessories.

\*\* 10% energy loss from electric motor and 10% loss from battery charging. Does not include loss from accessories.

\*\*\* Assume doubling of efficiency through advanced drivetrains, engine shut-off when idle, regenerative braking, and more.

Source: *C2ES PEV Literature Review*

# Advancements in Battery Technology



Lead Acid (not shown): Used in first GM EV1

NiMH: Used in final version of GM EV1; Gen 1 and 2 Prius

Li-ion: Used in PEVs today

*Envia Systems announced a 400 Wh/kg Li-ion battery in 2/2012*

Source: [U.S. DOE's ARPA-E Program](#)

- **Electric-only range varies widely**
  - E.g., Nissan LEAF range can vary from 60 miles to over 100 miles
- **Range is a function of driving conditions, driver behavior, vehicle system efficiency, battery size**
- **Factors that affect driving range:**
  - Mostly, the same things that affect conventional vehicle fuel economy
  - Climate control, hills, aggressive driving, regenerative braking, etc.



# Charging Technology

Vehicle “refueling” with and without a plug

## Low – AC 120V

- Uses standard outlet
- Power requirements:  
~ space heater
- Adapter comes with the car
- Accommodates average daily driving needs
- Very low cost installation, often free

## Medium – AC 240V

- Requires high-voltage circuit
- Power requirements:  
~ clothes dryer
- Charging stations can cost about \$500
- Installation costs vary widely (~\$1,500)

## High – DC Fast Charge

- Requires very high voltage circuit
- Power requirements:  
~ up to 100 homes
- No common standard for all PEVs
  - Japanese standard used by Nissan and Mitsubishi
  - SAE standard still being developed
- Very high installation cost (~\$100k)
- Equipment costs vary widely

- **SAE Charging Levels**

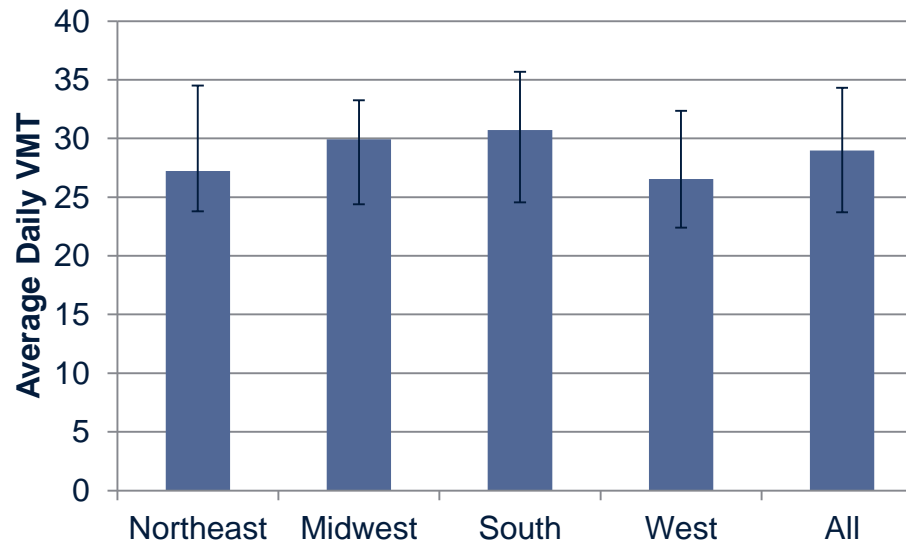
Level	Nominal Operating Voltage (V)	Max Rated Current (A)	Max Rated Power (kW)	Mileage Rate (miles/hour)**
AC Level 1	120	12/16	1.4/1.92	4.2/5.8
DC Level 1*	200-450	80	36	108
AC Level 2	240	80	19.2	57.6
DC Level 2*	200-450	200	90	270

\* SAE DC fast charging connector not finalized yet,

\*\* Assumes 3 miles per kWh; actual results depends on battery characteristics

- **CHAdeMO connector for DC fast charging available for Japanese-manufactured PEVs *only***
- **Tesla has their own DC fast charging connector**

- **Charging needs largely depend on daily VMT**



Source: [National Household Travel Survey](#)

- **E.g., Max miles per day with AC Level 1**

- 40 miles/day ÷ 3 miles/kWh ÷ 10 hours/day = 1.33 kWh

- **Better Place: battery swap robots are real**
  - Raised almost \$1b in venture capital
  - Model like mobile phone plan (pay per mile); Better Place owns the battery
  - Charging infrastructure deployed in Hawaii (government-supported)
  - Renault (Nissan) builds an EV with a removable battery
  - Battery swap stations installed or under construction in Israel, China, & Netherlands; pilot project in San Francisco with taxi cabs getting started
- **Wireless charging**
  - Uses magnetic fields to send power wirelessly (can be very efficient)
  - Parked – Several working on wireless charging while parked
  - On the move – Stanford working on system to charge while driving



- **Advancements in battery technology fueled PEV resurgence**
- **Auto companies have invested billions of dollars in electric drive technology**
  - All major automakers have plans to introduce PEVs within 2 years
  - They see PEVs as a long-term play
- **Charging needs vary by driving pattern**
- **Coalescing around charging standards is critical to avoid stranded assets**



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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